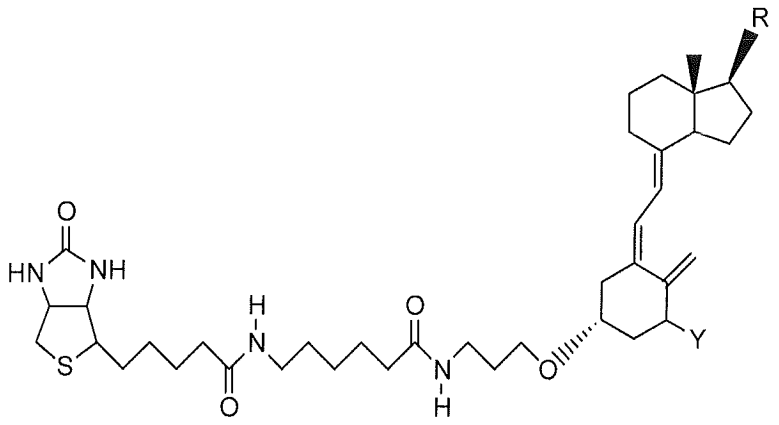
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method of measuring the amount of ~~a~~ 25-hydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite,~~ and 1α,25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite or both~~ in a sample using a competitive protein binding assay, ~~wherein~~ comprising measuring displacement of a vitamin D ~~derivative~~ derivative of formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein ~~is measured and the vitamin D derivative displaces a~~ by 25-hydroxy-vitamin D or 1α,25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite or both from the vitamin D binding protein~~,

wherein a displacement efficiency of approximately 1 is obtained by using a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D_2 or of vitamin D_3;

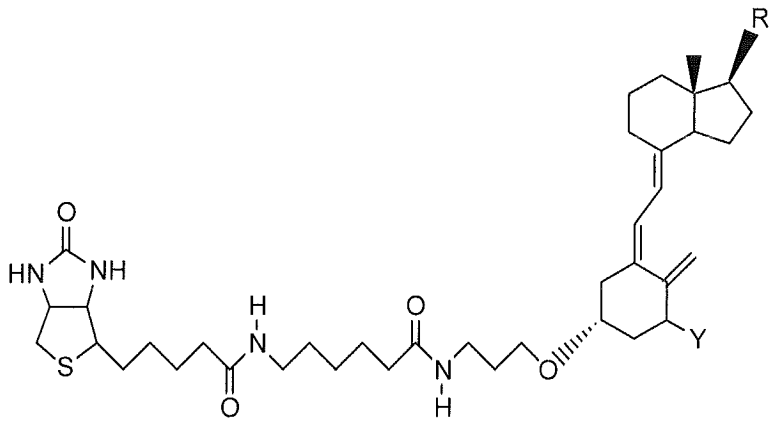
Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;

and ~~wherein the measurement of~~ correlating the measurement of displacement of ~~a~~ the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from ~~a~~the vitamin D binding protein in the sample ~~is correlated~~ to the measurement of displacement of ~~a~~ the vitamin D derivative of forumula (I) from ~~a~~the vitamin D binding protein using a known quantity of the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) to determine the amount of ~~a~~ 25-hydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite,~~ and 1α,25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite or both~~ in the sample.

2. (**Original**) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is a competitive immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of radioimmunoassay, enzyme immunoassay enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, luminescence immunoassay and fluorescence immunoassay.

3. (**Original**) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is sandwich immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of immuno radiometric assay, IEMA/EIA, immuno luminometric assay and immunofluorometric assay.

4. (**Currently Amended**) A kit for detection of 25-hydroxy- vitamin D or ~~1α/25~~-1α, 25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolites~~ or both in a sample on by ~~basis of~~ a competitive protein binding assay, wherein displacement of a vitamin D derivative of the formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein is measured and the vitamin D derivative displaces ~~a~~ 25-hydroxy-vitamin D or lα,25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite~~ from the vitamin D binding protein, comprising a standardized quantity of a solid vitamin D derivative of formula (I) or a standardized solution of a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D_2 or of vitamin D_3;

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (**Original**) The kit of claim 4 comprising a solid phase selected from the group consisting of a microtitration plate, another solid carrier, a microparticle, a polymeric material, and a cellulose.

8. (**Original**) The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a microparticle comprising agarose.

9. (**Original**) The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a magnetic microparticle.

10. (**Canceled**)

11. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 1, wherein said competitive protein binding assay is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme immunoassay, an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, a radio immunoassay, an immunoradiometric assay, a luminescence assay, a fluorescence immunoassay and an immunofluorometric assay.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein Y is hydroxy.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The kit of claim 4 wherein Y is hydroxy.

14. (**New**) The method of claim 1, wherein the 25-hydroxy vitamin D is removed from the sample before performing the competitive protein binding assay.

15. (**New**) The method of claim 1, in which an antibody that specifically binds 1α,25-dihydroxy vitamin D is used in the competitive protein binding assay.